WE CLAIM:

1. A method of decreasing or preventing HCV viral replication activity comprising contacting an HCV polymerase with a therapeutically effective amount of a hydroxamate MMP inhibitor.

2. A method according to claim 1, wherein the hydroxamate MMP inhibitor is administered orally or intraveously.

3. A method of treating a condition that is mediated by HCV polymerase in a patient, comprising administering to said patient a pharmaceutically effective amount of a hydroxamate MMP inhibitor.

4. A method according to claim 1 further comprising the step of targeting MMP inhibition as a means of treating indications caused by HCV infections.

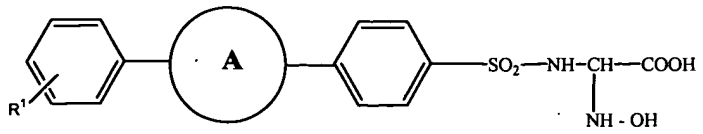
5. A method according to claim 1 further comprising the step of targeting viral or cellular targets identified by using MMP inhibitors for treating indications caused by HCV infections.

6. A method according to claim 1 further comprising the step of identifying cellular or viral pathways interfering with the functioning of HCV polymerase which could be used for treating indications caused by HCV infections by administering an MMP inhibitor.

7. A method according to claim 1 further comprising the step of using MMP inhibitors for carrying out gene profiling experiments for monitoring the up or down regulation of genes for the purpose of identifying inhibitors for treating indications caused by HCV infections.

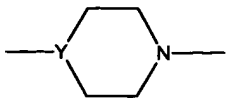
8. A pharmaceutical composition for the treatment of Hepatitis C virus (HCV) in a mammal comprising an amount of hydroxamate MMP inhibitor that is effective in treating HCV and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

9. A method according to Claim 1 utilizing a hydroxamate MMP inhibitor of the formula I:



(I);

wherein:

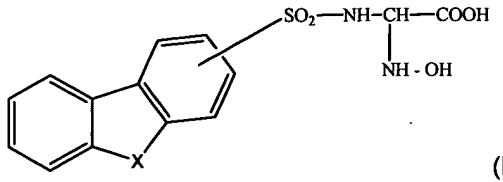
A is a bond, CONH, or 

, wherein Y is CH or N;

R^1 is alkyl, aryl, halo, amino, substituted or distributed amino, or alkoxy;

and the pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

10. A method according to Claim 1 utilizing a hydroxamate MMP inhibitor of the formula (II):



(II)

wherein X is oxygen or $-CH_2-$.

11. A method according to Claim 1 wherein the hydroxamate MMP inhibitor is selected from the group consisting of:

2-(2-Phenylethyl)benzoic acid N-hydroxyamide;

2-(Propylthio)-pyridine-3-N-(hydroxy)carboxamide;

[4-(N-Hydroxyamino)-2R-isobutyl-3S-((thien-2-yllthio)methyl)succinyl]-L-phenylalanine-N-methylamide;

N-Hydroxy-5-phenylpentanamide;

2-(Phenyl-2-ethyl)pyridine-3-N-hydroxycarboxamide;

2-(Thiobenzyl)benzoic acid N-hydroxy amide;

6-Biphenyl-4-yl-[2,2-dimethyl-1-(pyridin-4-ylcarbamoyl)-propylcarbamoyl]-hexanoic acid, N-hydroxyamide;

3R(6-(4-Biphenyl)-3-(N-benzylcarbamoyl))-hexanoic acid N-hydroxyamide;

2-Benzylsulfonyl-cyclopent-1-ene-carboxylic acid hydroxamide;

2-Benzylsulfonyl-cyclohex-1-enecarboxylic acid hydroxyamide;

6-Benzylsulfonyl-cyclohex-1-enecarboxylic acid hydroxyamide;

1-(N-Hydroxy)-3-(2-bibenzyl)urea;

3R-(6-(4-Biphenyl)propyl)-N-(3-methylpyridinecarbamoyl)- hexanoic acid N-hydroxy-amide;

4-(2-{[5-Hydroxyamino-3-(3-phenyl-propyl)-3,4-dihydro-2-H- pyrrole-3-carbonyl]-amino}-4-methyl-pentanoylamino)benzoic acid methyl ester;

5-Hydroxyamino-3-(3-phenyl-propyl)-3,4-dihydro-2-H-pyrrole-3- carboxylic acid (2-cyclohexyl-1-methylcarbamoyl-ethyl) amide;

4-(2- { [5-Hydroxyamino-3-(3-pentyl)-3,4-dihydro-2-H-pyrrole-3--carbonyl]-amino}-4-methyl-pentanoylamino) benzoic acid methyl ester;

6-Biphenyl-4-yl-3-(R)-(2-hydroxy-1-hydroxymethyl-ethylcarbamoyl)-hexanehydroxamic acid;

6-Biphenyl-4-yl-3(R)-(1(S)-hyroxymethyl-2,2-dimethyl- propylcarbamoyl)-hexanehydroxamicacid;

2-(Biphenyl-4-ylsulfonyl)-cyclohex-1-enecarboxylic acid hydroxyamide;

6-(Biphenyl-4-ylsulfonyl)-cyclohex-1-enecarboxylic acid hydroxyamide;

2-Phenethylsulfanyl-cyclohex-l-enecarboxylic acid hydroxyamide;

2-Benzylsulfanyl-cyclohexancarboxylic acid hydroxamide;

trans-2-Benzylsulfanyl-cyclohexancarboxylic acid hydroxamide;

trans-2-(Biphenyl-4-yl-methylsulfanyl)-cyclohexancarboxylic acid hydroxamide;

6-Biphenyl-4-yl-3-(R)-(1-hydroxymethyl-2-(S)-(1H-imidazol-4- yl)-ethylcarbamoyl)-hexanehydroxamic acid;

N-Hydroxy-2-[2-Oxo-3-(3-phenyl-propyl)-tetrahydro-furan-3-yl]-acetamide;

trans-2-(4-Phenoxy-benzylsulfanyl)-cyclohexancarboxylic acid hydroxamide;

2-(4-Indol-1--yl-benzylsulfanyl)--cyclohexancarboxylic acid hydroxamide;

2-(3-Biphenyl-4-yl-propyl)-N4-hydroxy-N1-(2,4,5-trihydroxy-6-hydroxymethyl-tetrahydro-pyran-3-yl)-succinamide;

2-(2-Biphenyl-4-yl-ethylsulfanyl)-cyclohexane carboxylic acid hydroxyamide;

2-(3-Biphenyl-4-yl-propyl)-N4-hydroxy-N1-(2-hydroxy-cyclohexyl)-succinamide;

6-Biphenyl-4-yl-3-(1-hydroxyimino-ethyl)-hexanoic acid hydroxyamide;

3-(R)-(2-Hydroxy-1-(S)-(1H-imidazol-4-yl)-ethylcarbamoyl)-6-(4-(2-methyl-thiazol-4-yl)-phenyl)-hexanehydroxamic acid;

6-Biphenyl-4-yl-3-(3-hydroxy-piperidine-1-carbonyl)-hexanoic acid-hydroxyamide;

1-(4-Methoxy-benzenesulfonyl)-piperidine-2-carboxylic acid hydroxamide;

1-1-[4-Bromo-phenoxy)-benzenesulfonyl)-piperidine-2-carboxylic acid hydroxyamide;

N-(1-benzyl-2-hydroxy-ethyl)-N4-hydroxy-2-isobutyl- succinamide;

6-Biphenyl-4-yl-3 (R)-2 (S)-hydroxy-(1(S)-hydroxymethyl-2,2-dimethyl-propylcarbamoyl)-hexanoic hydroxamic acid;

6-Biphenyl-4-yl-3-(2-hydroxy-1hydroxmethyl-propylcarbamoyl)- hexanoic hydroxamic acid;

trans-2-(3-Biphenyl-4-yl-propyl)-cyclohexane carboxylic acid hydroxyamide;

1-[4-Biphenyl-4-yloxy)-benzenesulfonyl)-piperidine-2-carboxylic acid hydroxamide;

1-(4-Phenoxy-benzenesulfonyl)-piperidine-2-carboxylic acid hydroxamide;

6-Biphenyl-4-yl-3-(R)-(1-(S)-hydroxymethyl-2-(3-pyridyl)- ethylcarbamoyl)-hexanehydroxamic acid;

6-Biphenyl-4-yl-2S-hydroxy-3R-(1S-hydroxymethyl-3- methylsulfanyl-propylcarbamoyl)-hexanoic hydroxamic acid;

1-[-[4-(4-Bromo-phenoxy)-benzenesulfonyl]-4-(tertbutoxycarbonyl)-piperazine-2-carboxylic acid hydroxyamide;

1-[4-(4-Bromo-phenoxy)-benzenesulfonyl]-piperazine-2-carboxylic acid hydroxyamide;

4-Acetyl-1-[4-phenoxy-benzenesulfonyl]-piperazine-2-carboxylic acid, N-hydroxyamide;

1-(Diphenylphosphinic)-piperidine-2-carboxylic acid hydroxamide;

6-Biphenyl-4-yl-3-(R)–(2-oxo-l-tetrahydrofuran-3-(S)-ylcarbamoyl)-hexane hydroxamic acid;

1-[-[4-(4-Bromo-phenoxy)-benzenesulfonyl]-4-methyl-piperazine-2-carboxylic acid N-hydroxyamide;

4-(4-Methoxy-benzenesulfonyl)-thiomorpholine-3-carboxylic acid hydroxyamide;

3-(Diphenylphosphinic)-propanoic acid hydroxyamide;

1-[4-(4-Chlorophenoxy)benzenesulfonyl]-thiomorpholine-3-carbamoyl)piperazine-2-carboxamide;

4[4-Phenoxy-benzenesulfonyl]-piperazine-2-carboxylic acid, N-hydroxyamide;

4[4-Phenoxy-benzenesulfonyl]-thiomorpholine-3-carboxylic acid N-hydroxyamide;

3[2-Biphenyl-4-yl-ethylsulfanyl]-tetrahydro-pyran-4-carboxylic acid N-hydroxyamide;

1-[4-Phenoxy-benzenesulfonyl]-4-methyl-piperazine-2-carboxylic acid N-hydroxyamide;

6-Biphenyl-4-yl-3-(R)-(2-oxo-azepan-3-(S)-ylcarbamoyl)-hexane hydroxamic acid;

4-(1H-Indole-2-sulfonyl)-thiomorpholine-3-carboxylic acid hydroxyamide;

1-(Methyl-phenylphosphinic)-piperidine-2-(R)-carboxylic acid hydroxamide;

1-(1,3-Dihydro-isoindole-2-sulfonyl)-piperidine-2-carboxylic acid hydroxamide;

4-Methyl-1-(4-(4-chlorophenyl)benzenesulfonyl)-N-hydroxy-2R-piperazinecarboxamide hydrochloride;

1-[4-Chlorophenoxybenzenesulfonyl]-N-hydroxy-2R-piperazinecarboxamide;

2-(3-Phenyl-propylsulfonyl)-cyclohexane carboxylic acid hydroxamide;

1-(Pyrolidine-1-sulfonyl)-piperidine-2-carboxylic acid hydroxyamide;

1-(Piperidine-1-sulfonyl)-piperidine-2-carboxylic acid hydroxyamide;

4-[-[4-Bromo-phenoxy-benzenesulfonyl]-oxothiomorpholine-3-carboxylic acid-N-hydroxyamide;

1-[4-(4-Methoxy-phenylsulfanyl)-benzenesulfonyl]-piperdine-2-carboxylic acid hydroxyamide;

1-[4-(4-Cyano-phenoxy)-benzenesulfonyl]-4-(tert-butoxycarbonyl)-piperazine-2-carboxylic acid N-hydroxyamide;

6-Oxo-3-(4-phenoxy-benzenesulfonyl)-hexahydro-pyrimidine-4- carboxylic acid hydroxamate;

4-(t-Butoxycabonyl)-1-(4-(pyridin-2-yl)oxybenzensulfonyl)-N- hydroxy-piperazine-2-carboxamide;

4-[(4-Fluorophenoxy)-benzenesulfonyl]-thiomorpholine-3--carboxylic acid N-hydroxyamide;

4-[4-(Fluoro-phenoxy)-benzenesulfonyl]-oxothiomorpholine-3-carboxylic acid N-hydroxyamide;

4-(4-Butoxy-benzenesulfonyl)-thiomorpholine-3-carboxylic acid hydroxyamide;

4-(4-Butoxy-benzenesulfonyl)-1-oxothiomorpholine-3-carboxylic acid hydroxyamide;

1-[4-(4-Fluorophenyl)benzenesulfonyl]-4-(tert-butoxycarboxyl)2R-piperazine-2-carboxylic acid hydroxyamide;

1-((4-(4-Chlorophenyl)-piperazine)--l-sulfonyl)-piperidine-2carboxylic acid hydroxamide;

cis-2-Phenethylsulfanyl-cyclohexanecarboxylic acid hydroxyamide;

1-[-[4-(4-Fluorophenyl) benzenesulfonyl)-N-hydroxy-2R- piperazinecarboxamide hydrochoride;

1-(Diphenylphosphinic)-pyrolidine-2(R)-carboxylic acid hydroxyamide;

trans-2-Phenethylsulfonyl-cyclohexanecarboxylic acid hydroxyamide;

1-[4-(4-Flourophenyl)-piperazine- 1-sulfonyl]-piperidine-2- carboxylic acid hydroxamide;

1-1-[4-(4-Fluorophenylsulfanyl)-benzenesulfonyl]-piperidine-2-carboxylic acid hydroxyamide;

4-1-[4-(Bromo-phenoxy)-benzenesulfonyl]-2, 2-dimethyl-1-oxo-thiomorpholine-3-carboxylic acid hydroxyamide;

1-(Pyrrolidine-1-carbonyl)-pyrrolidine-2 (R)-carboxylic acid hydroxyamide;

R-4-[4-(Bromophenoxy)-benzenesulfonyl]-2,2-dimethyl- 1-oxo-thiomorpholine-3-carboxylic acid hydroxyamide;

4-(Ethoxycarbonyl)methyl-1-(4-(4-chlorophenyl)benzenesulfonyl)-N-hydroxy-2R-piperazinecarboxamide hydrochloride;

1-Phenethylcarbamoyl-pyrrolidine-2-(R)-carboxylic acid hydroxyamide;

1-(4-Benzyl-piperazine-1-sulfonyl)-piperidine-2-carboxylic acid hydroxyamide;

3(S)-N-Hydroxy-4-(4-(pyridin-4-yl) oxybenzenesulfonyl)-2, 2- dimethyl-tetrahydro-2H-1,4-thiazine-3-carboxamide;

2(R)-4-Methyl- 1-(4-(4-fluorophenyl)benzenesulfonyl)-N-hydroxy- piperazine-2-carboxamide;

1-((2-Pyridyl)-4-piperazine- 1-sulfonyl)-piperdine-2-carboxylic acid hydroxyamide;

1-1-[4-(Pyridin-4-ylsulfamyl)-benzenesulfonyl]-piperdine-2-carboxylic acid hydroxyamide;

N-(4-Phenoxy-benzenesulfonyl)-D-tert-leucine-N-hydroxyamide;

2,2-Dimethyl-4-[4-(pyridin-2-yloxy)-benzenesulfonyl]-thiomorpholine-3-carboxylic acid hydroxyamide;

N-1-[4-(4-Fluorophenoxyl) benzenesulfonyl)-D-tert-leucine, N-hydroxyamide;

3(R)-N-Hydroxy-4-(4-(pyridin-4-yl) oxybenzenesulfonyl)-2, 2- dimethyl-tetrahydro-2H-1,4-thiazine-3-carboxamide hydrochloride;

2-[4-(4-Chloro-phenoxy)-benzenesulfonylamino]-N-hydroxy-3,3-dimethyl-butyramide;

3(R)-N-Hydroxy-4-(4-(fur-3-yl) phenoxybenzenesulfonyl)-2, 2- dimethyl-tetrahydro-2H-1,4-thiazine-3-carboxamide;

2-1-[4-(Pyridin-2-yl-oxy)-benzenesulfonylamino]-N-hydroxy-3, 3- dimethyl butyramide;

2-(2-Biphenyl-4-yl-ethylsulfonyl)-cyclohex-1-ene-carboxylic acid hydroxyamide;

6-(2-Biphenyl-4-yl-ethyl sulfonyl)-cyclohex-l-ene-carboxylic acid hydroxyamide;

N-(4-Phenoxy-benzenesulfonyl)-3, 3-dimethyl-S-(methylthio)-D- cysteine, N-hydroxyamide;

(4-Phenoxy-piperidine-1-sulfonyl)-piperdine-2-carboxylic acid hydroxyamide;

N-(4-[4-Chlorophenoxy]-benzenesulfonyl)-3,3-dimethyl-S-(methylthio)-D-cysteine, N-hydroxyamide;

N-(4-[4-Chlorophenoxy]-benzenesulfonyl)-3,3-dimethyl-S-(methylsulfoxy)-D-cysteine, N-hydroxyamide;

cis-2-(2-Phenyl-ethanesulfonyl)-cyclohexanecarboxylic acid hydroxyamide;

3(R)-N-Hydroxy-4-(4-(imidazol-1-yl) phenoxybenzenesulfonyl)-2, 2- dimethyl-tetrahydro-2H-1,4-thiazine-3-carboxamide;

3(R)-N-Hydroxy-4-(4-(pyridin-4-yl) oxybenzenesulfonyl)-2, 2- dimethyl-tetrahydro-2H-1,4-thiazine-3-carboxamide;

4-1-[2-(2-Hydroxycarbamylmethyl-5-phenyl-pentanoylamino)-4-methyl-pentanoyl]-benzoic acid methyl ester;

trans-2-(2-Phenyl-ethanesulfonyl)-cyclohexanecarboxylic acid hydroxyamide;

3,3-Dimethyl-2-(4-phenoxy-phenylsulfanylmethyl)-butyric acid, N-hydroxyamide;

2-(2-Biphenyl-4-yl-ethanesulfonyl)-cyclohexanecarboxylic acid hydroxamate;

2-[-[4-(4-Chlorophenyl)-piperazine-1-sulfonylamino]-3-methyl-3-(pyridin-2ylmethylsulfanyl)-butyric acid N-hydroxyamide;

3,3-Dimethyl-2-(4-phenoxy-phenylsulfonylmethyl)-butyric acid, N-hydroxyamide;

2(R)-[4-(4-Fluoro-phenoxy) benzenesulfonylamino]-3-methyl-3-(pyridin-2-yl sulfanyl)-butyric acid, hydroxyamide;

3(R)-N-Hydroxy-4-(4-(-((pyridin-4-yl) methyl) oxybenzenesulfonyl)--2,2-dimethyl-tetrahydro-2H-1,4-thiazine-3-carboxamide;

1-1-[4-(4-Chloro-phenoxy)-benzenesulfonyl]-4-(l-methyl-1H- imidazole-4-sulfonyl)-piperazine-2-carboxylic acid hydroxamide;

1-[4-(Pyridin-2-ylsulfanyl)-piperidine- l-sulfonyl]-piperidine-2- carboxylic acid hydroxyamide;

2R-[4-(4-Furan-3-yl-phenoxy)-benzenesulfonylamino]-N-hydroxy-3-methyl-3-(pyridin-4-ylsulfanyl)-butyramide;

trans-2-(2-Biphenyl-4-yl-ethylsulfanyl)-cyclohexanecarboxylic acid hydroxyamide;

N4-(2, 2-Dimethyl-1 S-hydroxymethyl-propyl)-N1-hydroxy-3R [3-(4-pyridin-4-yl-phenyl)-pyrrol-1-yl]-succindiamide;

1-[4-(4-Fluoro-phenoxy)-benzenesulfonyl)]-3,3-dimethyl-5-oxo-piperazine-2-carboxylic acid hydroxyamide;

2(R)-[4-(4-Iodo-phenoxy)benzenesulfonylamino]-3-methyl-(pyridin-3-yl-sulfonyl) butyric acid hydroxyamide;

1-[-[2-(Benzothiazol-2-ylsulfanyl)-piperidine-1-sulfonyl]–piperidine-2-carboxylic acid hydroxyamide;

5-[4-(4-Fluoro-phenoxy)-benzenesulfonyl]-4, 5, 6, 7-tetrahydro-3H-imidazolo[4,5,-c]pyridine-6-carboxylic acid hydroxyamide;

1-[4-(Pyridin-4-ylsulfanyl)-piperidine- 1-sulfanyl]-piperidine-2carboxylic acid hydroxyamide;

1-[4-(4-Methoxy-phenylsulfamyl)-piperidine-1-sulfonyl]piperidine-2-carboxylic acid hydroxyamide;

2(R)-[4-(4-Methylphenoxy)benzenesulfonylamino]-3-methyl-3-(pyridin-3-yl-sulfonyl) butyric acid hydroxyamide;

1-[4-(4-Methyl-phenylsulfamyl)-piperidine-1-sulfonyl]-piperidine- 2-carboxylic acid hydroxamide;

4-Methoxy-benzenesulfonyl)-2,2-dimethyl-thiomorpholine-3-carboxylic acid hydroxyamide;

4-1-[4-(4-Chloro-phenoxy)-benzenesulfonyl]-2, 2-dimethyl- thiomorpholine-3-carboxylic acid hydroxyamide;

2 (R)-[4-(4-bromo-phenoxy) benzenesulfoxylamino]-3-methyl-3-(pyridin-4-yl-sulfoxide) butyric acid hydroxyamide;

4-(4-Methoxy-benzensulfonyl)-2,2-dimethyl-1-oxo-thiomorpholine-3-carboxylic acid hydroxyamide;

4-4-(4-Chloro-phenoxy)-benzenesulfonyl]-2, 2-dimethoxy-1-oxo-thiomorpholine-3-carboxylic acid hydroxyamide;

3 (S)-2, 2-Dimethyl-4-[4-(pyridin-4-ylsulfanyl)-benzenesulfonyl]-thiomorpholine-3-carboxylic acid hydroxyamide;

3, 3-Dimethyl-N-hydroxy-2R-[-[4(-(pyridin-4-ylsulfanyl)-piperidine- 1-sulfonylamino]-butyramide;

N-Hydroxy-2-[-[(4-methylbenzenesulfonyl) amino] acetamide;

[4(-(4-Imidazol-1-yl-phenoxy)-piperidine-l-sulfonyl]-piperidine- 2-carboxylic acid hydroxyamide;

1-[4-(4-Imidazol-1-yl-phenylsulfanyl)-piperidine-1-sulfonyl]-piperidine-2-carboxylic acid hydroxyamide;

2(R)-[4-(4-Chloro-benzoyl)-cyclohexanesulfonyl]-piperidine-1- carboxylic acid hydroxyamide;

1(R)-[4-(4-Chloro-benzoyl)-piperidine-1-sulfonyl]-piperidine-2- carboxylic acid hydroxyamide;

1(R)-(4-Pyridin-2-yl-piperazine-1-sulfonyl)-piperidine-2- carboxylic acid hydroxyamide;

1(R)-[4-(4-Imidazol-1-yl-phenoxy)-piperidine-1-sulfonyl]- piperidine-2-carboxylic acid hydroxyamide;

N-Hydroxy-3,3-dimethyl-2R-[4(-(morpholine-4-carbonyl)-piperidine-1-sulfonylamino]-butyramide;

N-Hydroxy-3-methyl-3-(5-methyl-isoxazol-3-yl-methylsulfanyl)- 2R-[4-(pyridin-4-ylsulfanyl)-piperidine-sulfonylamino]-butyramide;

N-Hydroxy-2R-[4-(4-imidazol- 1-yl-phenoxy)-piperidine- 1-sulfonylamino]-3,3-dimethyl-butyramide;

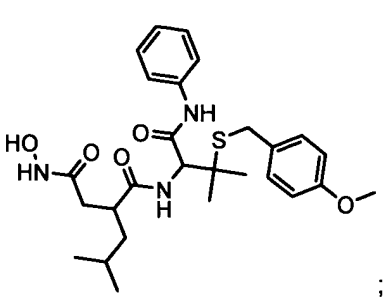
2R-[4-(4-Chloro-benzoyl)-piperazine-1-sulfonylamino]-Nhydroxy-3-methyl-3-methylsulfanyl-butyramide;

N-Hydroxy-3-methyl-3-methylsulfanyl-2R-[4-(pyridin-4-ylsulfanyl)-piperidine-1-sulfonylamino]-butyramide;

1R,3S,2,2-Dimethyl-1-oxo-4-[-[4(-(pyridin-4-yloxy)--benzenesulfonyl]-thiomorpholine-3-carboxylicacid amide;

and the pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

12. A method according to Claim 1 wherein the hydroxamate MMP inhibitor is selected from the group consisting of: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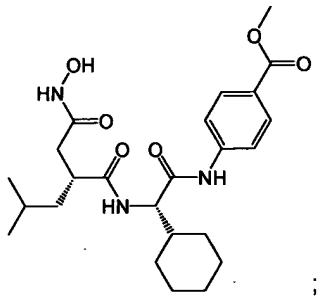
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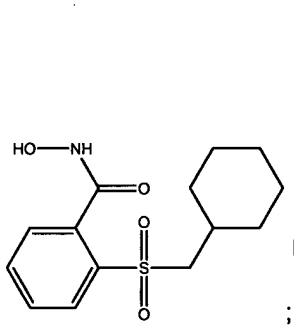
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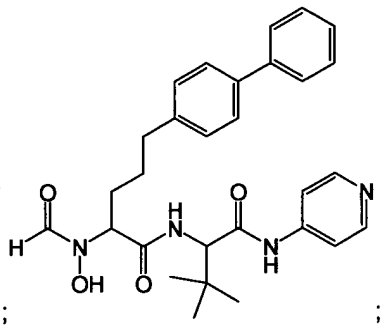
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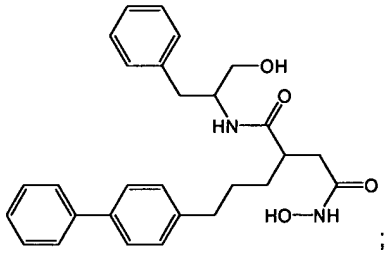
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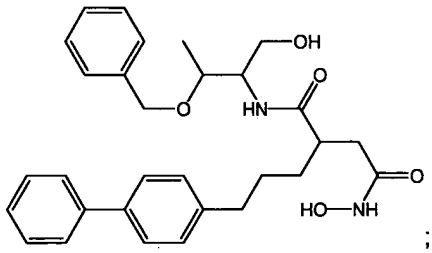
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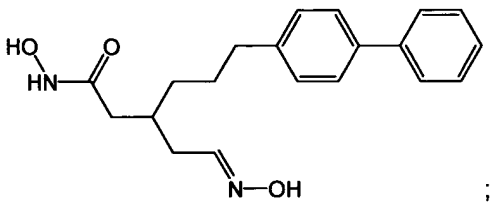
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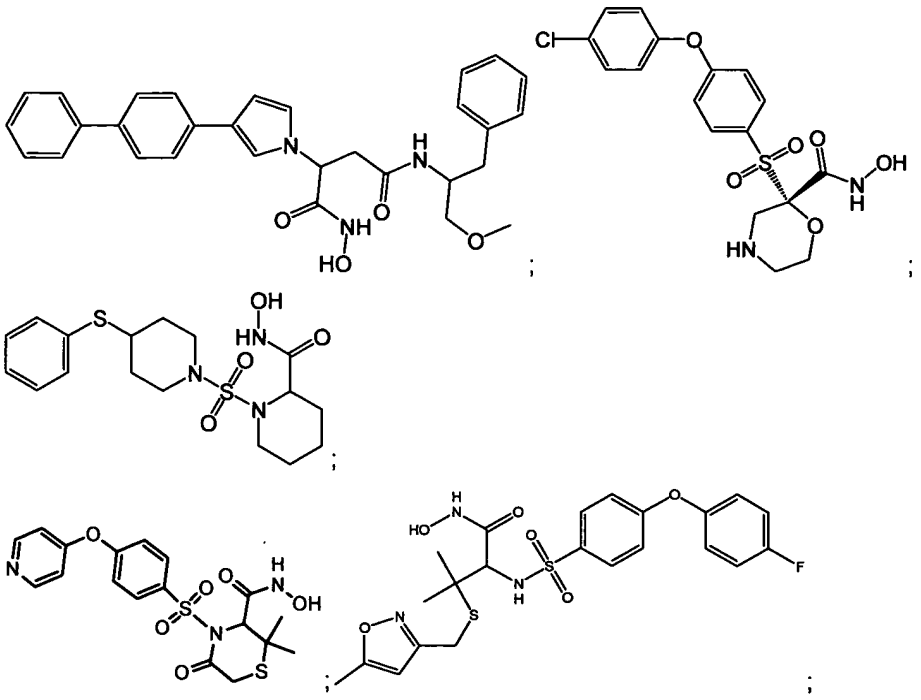
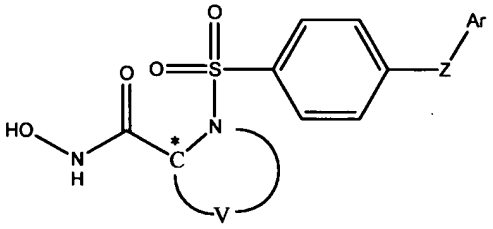


and the pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

13. A method according to Claim 1 wherein said hydroxamate MMP inhibitor is of the formula (III):



(III);

wherein:

Z is O or S; V is a divalent radical which together with C* and N forms a ring having six ring atoms, where each of said ring atoms other than C* and N independently is unsubstituted or substituted by a suitable substituent, and at least one of said other ring atoms is a heteroatom selected from O, N and S, and the remainder are carbon atoms; and Ar is an aryl or heteroaryl group; or a pharmaceutically acceptable prodrug, salt or solvate thereof.

14. A method according to Claim 13 wherein said hydroxamate inhibitor is selected from the group consisting of:

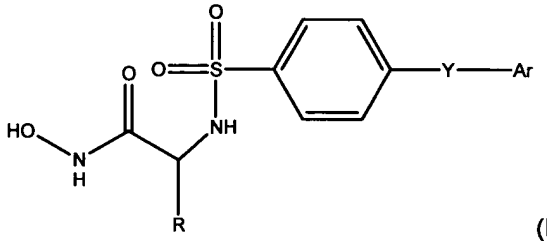
2(R)-N-hydroxy-1-(4-(4-chlorophenoxy) benzenesulfonyl)-4-(methanesulfonyl)-piperazine-2-carboxamide;

2(R)-N-hydroxy-1-(4-(4-fluorophenoxy) benzenesulfonyl)-4-(methanesulfonyl)-piperazine-2-carboxamide;

3(S)-N-hydroxy-4-(4-((pyrid-4-yl) oxy)benzenesulfonyl)-2,2-dimethyl-tetrahydro-2H-1,4-thiazine-3-carboxamide;

and the pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

15. A method according to Claim 1 wherein said hydroxamate inhibitor is of the formula (IV):



(IV);

wherein Y is O or S;

Ar is an aryl group or a heteroaryl group;

R is H, an alkyl group, a cycloalkyl group, a heterocycloalkyl group, an aryl group, a heteroaryl group, or $-C(O)R^1$, wherein R^1 is hydrogen, an alkyl group, a cycloalkyl group, a heterocycloalkyl group, an aryl group, a heteroaryl group, or $-NR^2R^3$, wherein R^2 and R^3 independently are hydrogen, an alkyl group, a cycloalkyl group, a heterocycloalkyl group, an aryl group, or a heteroaryl group;

or the pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

16. A method according to Claim 15, wherein said hydroxamate inhibitor is selected from the group consisting of:

2(S)-N-hydroxy-3,3-dimethyl-2-[(4-(4-fluorophenoxy)benzenesulfonyl)-amino]butanamide;

2(S)-N-hydroxy-3,3-dimethyl-2-[(4-(4-chlorophenoxy)benzenesulfonyl)-amino]butanamide;

2(S)-N-hydroxy-3-methyl-3-(pyrid-2-yl)methylsulfanyl-2-[(4-(4-fluorophenoxy)benzenesulfonyl)-amino]butanamide;

2(S)-N-hydroxy-3-methyl-3-(pyrid-2-yl)methylsulfanyl-2-[(4-(4-bromophenoxy)-benzenesulfonyl)-amino]butanamide;

2(S)-N-hydroxy-3-methyl-3-(pyrid-2-yl)methylsulfanyl-2-[(4-(4-iodophenoxy) benzenesulfonyl)-amino]butanamide;

2(S)-N-hydroxy-3-methyl-3-(5-methylisoxazol-3-yl)methylsulfanyl-2-[(4-(4-fluorophenoxy)-benzenesulfonyl)amino]butanamide;

2(S)-N-hydroxy-3-methyl-3-(5-methylisoxazol-3-yl)methylsulfanyl-2-[(4-(4-bromophenoxy)-benzenesulfonyl)amino]butanamide;

2(S)-N-hydroxy-3-methyl-3-(pyrid-2-yl)methylsulfanyl-2-[(4-(4-methylphenoxy)-benzenesulfonyl)amino]butanamide;

2(S)-N-hydroxy-3-methyl-3-(5-methylisoxazol-3-yl)methylsulfanyl-2-[(4-(pyrid-4-yloxy)benzenesulfonyl)-amino]butanamide;

2(S)-N-hydroxy-3-methyl-3-(5-methylisoxazol-3-yl)methylsulfanyl-2-[(4-{(pyrid-4-yl)sulfanyl}-benzenesulfonyl)amino]butanamide;

2(S)-N-hydroxy-3-methyl-3-(1H-imidazol-4-yl)methylsulfanyl-2-[(4-(4-bromophenoxy)benzenesulfonyl)-amino]butanamide;

2(S)-N-hydroxy-3-methyl-3-(1-methyl-1H-imidazol-2-yl) methylsulfanyl-2-[(4-(4-bromophenoxy)-benzenesulfonyl)amino]butanamide;

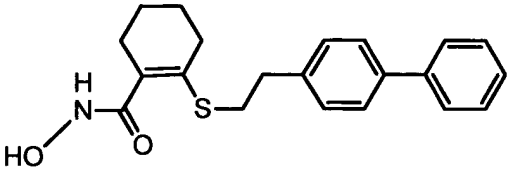
2(S)-N-hydroxy-3-methyl-3-(1-methyl-1H-imidazol-4-yl) methylsulfanyl-2-[(4-(4-bromophenoxy)-benzenesulfonyl)amino]butanamide;

2(S)-N-hydroxy-3-methyl-3-(4-methyl-4H-[1,2,4]-triazol-3-yl) methylsulfanyl-2-[(4-(4-bromophenoxy)-benzenesulfonyl)amino]butanamide;

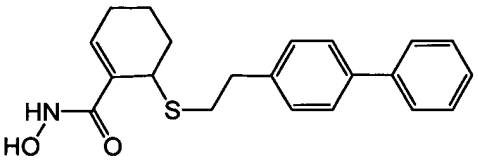
2(S)-N-hydroxy-3-methyl-3-(1-methyl-4H-[1,2,4]-triazol-3-yl) methylsulfanyl-2-[(4-(4-bromophenoxy)-benzenesulfonyl)amino]butanamide;

2(S)-N-hydroxy-3-methyl-3-methylsulfanyl-2-[(4-(4-chlorophenoxy)benzenesulfonyl)amino]butananamide; and the pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

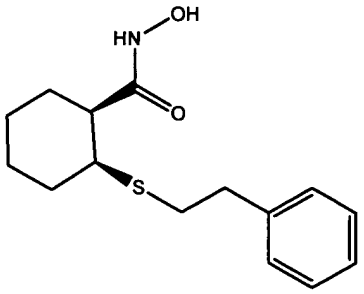
17. A method according to Claim 1 wherein said hydroxamate MMP inhibitor is selected from the group consisting of:



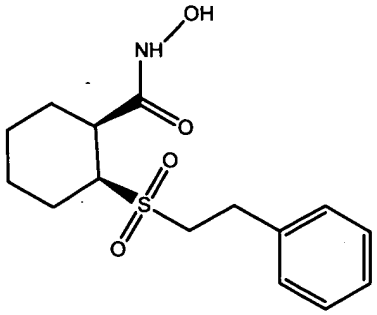
(2-[(2-biphenyl-4-ylethyl)thio]-*N*-hydroxycyclohex-1-ene-1-carboxamide);



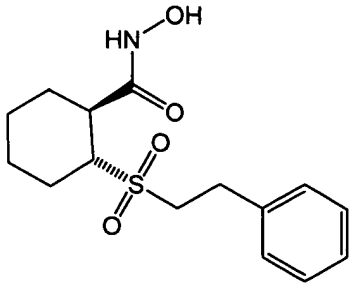
(6-(2-Biphenyl-4-yl-ethylsulfanyl)-cyclohex-1-ene-carboxylic Acid Hydroxyamide);



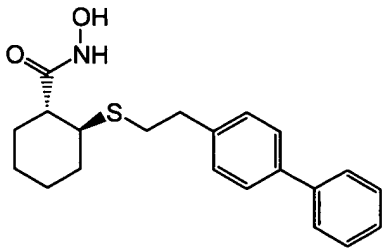
((1*R*,2*R*)-*N*-hydroxy-2-[(2-phenylethyl)thio]cyclohexanecarboxamide);



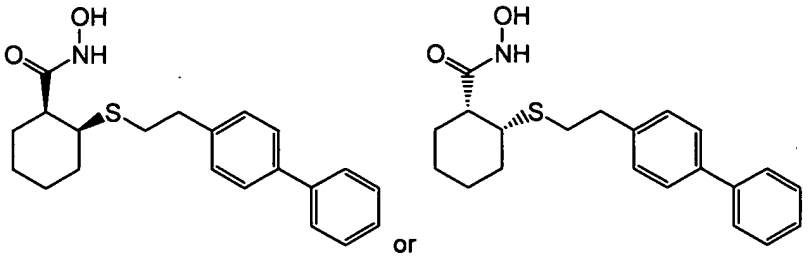
(cis-Phenyl-ethanesulfonyl-cyclohexanecarboxylic Acid Hydroxyamide);



((1*S*,2*R*)-*N*-hydroxy-2-[(2-phenylethyl)sulfonyl]cyclohexanecarboxamide);

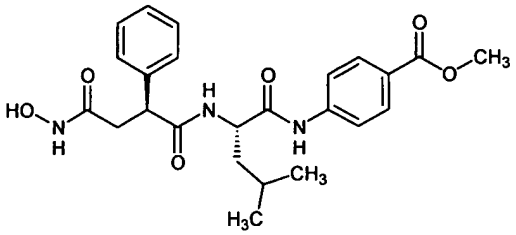


((1*S*,2*R*)-2-[(2-biphenyl-4-ylethyl)sulfonyl]-*N*-hydroxycyclohexanecarboxamide);

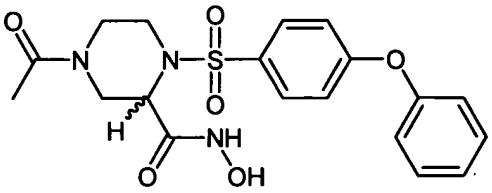


or

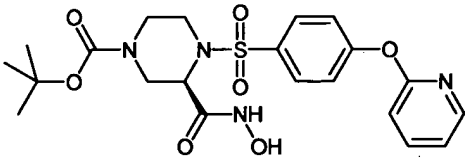
(cis-2-(Biphenyl-4-yl-ethanesulfonyl)-cyclohexanecarboxylic Acid Hydroxamate);



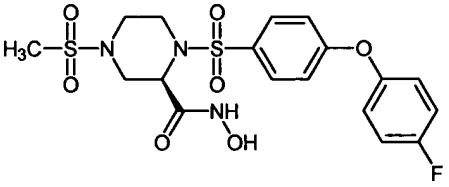
(methyl 4-({*N*-[(2*S*)-4-(hydroxyamino)-4-oxo-2-phenylbutanoyl]-L-leucyl}amino)benzoate);



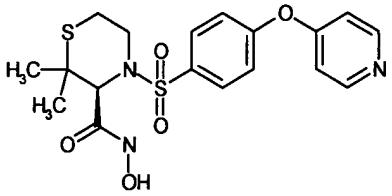
(4-acetyl-*N*-hydroxy-1-[(4-phenoxyphenyl)sulfonyl]piperazine-2-carboxamide);



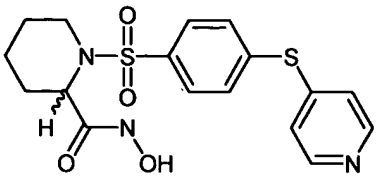
(*tert*-butyl (3*R*)-3-[(hydroxyamino)carbonyl]-4-{[4-(pyridin-2-yloxy)phenyl]sulfonyl}piperazine-1-carboxylate);



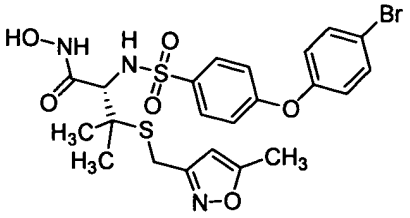
(2*R*)-1-{[4-(4-fluorophenoxy)phenyl]sulfonyl}-*N*-hydroxy-4-(methylsulfonyl)piperazine-2-carboxamide);



((3*S*)-*N*-hydroxy-2,2-dimethyl-4-{[4-(pyridin-4-yloxy)phenyl]sulfonyl}thiomorpholine-3-carboxamide);



(*N*-hydroxy-1-{[4-(pyridin-4-ylthio)phenyl]sulfonyl}piperidine-2-carboxamide);



(N^2-{[4-(4-bromophenoxy)phenyl]sulfonyl}-N^1-hydroxy-3-{[(5-methylisoxazol-3-yl)methyl]thio}-D-valinamide); the optically pure compound and enantiomeric mixtures thereof;
and the pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.